

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 7, 2009, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 5-9 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, to accept subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner and thereby place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

- Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 5 and claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice;
- Dependent claims 6-9 have been amended to update their dependencies in view of the cancellation of claim 5; and
- Dependent claim 3, as well as non-elected claims 13-16, have been cancelled without prejudice.

In addition, claims 1-2 and 4-12 have been amended to conform to current U.S. patent practice, including elimination of non-limiting reference numerals and multiple dependencies, without addressing any patentability issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application. If there is an additional fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 141270.

Dated: February 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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